

is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 30, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-12000 Filed 5-5-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Export Administration

Information Systems Technical Advisory Committee; Notice of Closed Meeting

A meeting of the Information System Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) will be held May 21, 1998, 9:00 a.m., in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 1617M-2, 14th Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. The ISTAC advises the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration with respect to technical questions that affect the level of export controls applicable to information systems equipment and technology.

The Committee will meet only in Executive Session to discuss matters properly classified under Executive order 12958, dealing with the U.S. export control program and strategic criteria related thereto.

The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on October 3, 1997, pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, that the series of meetings of the Committee and of any Subcommittees thereof, dealing with the classified materials listed in 5 U.S.C., 552b(c)(1) shall be exempt from the provisions relating to public meetings found in section 10(a)(1) and 10(a)(3), of the

Federal Advisory Committee Act. The remaining series of meetings or portions thereof will be open to the public.

A copy of the Notice of Determination to close meetings or portions of meetings of the Committee is available for public inspection and copying in the Central Reference and Records Inspection Facility, Room 6020, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230. For further information, contact Lee Ann Carpenter on (202) 482-2583.

Dated: April 30, 1998.

Lee Ann Carpenter,

Director, Technical Advisory Committee Unit.

[FR Doc. 98-12008 Filed 5-5-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Applications for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments

Pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651; 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301), we invite comments on the question of whether instruments of equivalent scientific value, for the purposes for which the instruments shown below are intended to be used, are being manufactured in the United States.

Comments must comply with 15 CFR 301.5(a)(3) and (4) of the regulations and be filed within 20 days with the Statutory Import Programs Staff, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230. Applications may be examined between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. in Room 4211, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Docket Number: 98-022. Applicant: Texas A&M University, Plant Genome Mapping Laboratory, Heep Center for SCSC, Room 610, College Station, TX 77843-2474. **Instrument:** Robot, Model X8000. **Manufacturer:** Genetix Ltd., United Kingdom. **Intended Use:** The instrument is intended to be used for studies of recombinant bacteria containing cloned DNA inserts from flowering plants (for example cotton, sorghum or rice) or other non-infectious sources. Experiments will be conducted which involve the identification of specific bacterial clones that contain DNA which corresponds to particular genes or related DNA elements previously assigned to a "map position" along the chromosomes of the source organism (flowering plant). In addition, the instrument will be used for

educational purposes in the courses: (a) GENE 485: Undergraduate Research, (b) GENE 691: Postgraduate Research and (c) GENE 654: Analysis of Complex Genomes. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: April 20, 1998.

Docket Number: 98-023. Applicant: University of Iowa, Department of Ophthalmology, 200 Hawkins Drive, 11190E PFP, Iowa City, IA 52242. **Instrument:** Electron Microscope, Model JEM-1220. **Manufacturer:** JEOL, Ltd., Japan. **Intended Use:** The instrument is intended to be used for studies of ocular tissues and cells from humans and animals to determine the extent of, and to quantitate, pathological changes in ocular tissues of human donors afflicted with age-related macular degeneration and animal models of this disease. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: April 21, 1998.

Frank W. Creel

Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

[FR Doc. 98-12046 Filed 5-5-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041598A]

Small Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Offshore Seismic Activities in the Beaufort Sea

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application and proposed authorization for a small take exemption; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received a request from the BP Exploration (Alaska), 900 East Benson Boulevard, Anchorage, AK 99519 (BPXA) for a renewal of an authorization to take small numbers of marine mammals by harassment incidental to conducting seismic surveys in the Beaufort Sea in state and Federal waters. Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to authorize BPXA to incidentally take, by harassment, small numbers of bowhead whales and other marine mammals in the above mentioned areas during the open water period of 1998.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than June 5, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the application should be addressed to